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# JAMES BOWIE<sup>99</sup>

A HERO OF THE ALAMO

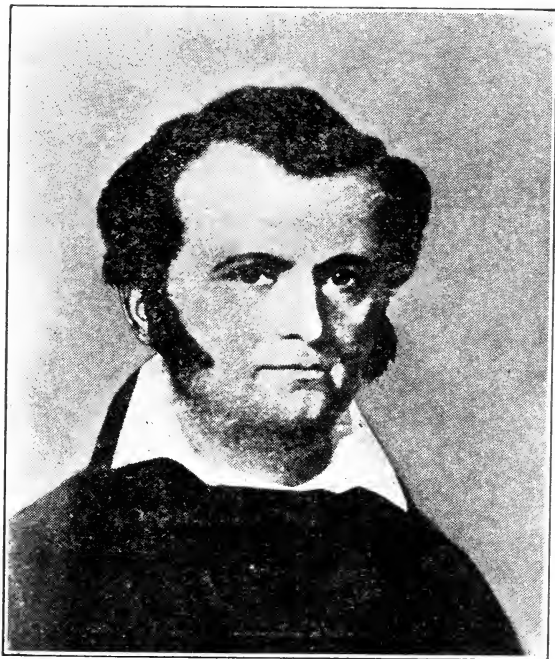
EVELYN BROGAN



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**JAMES BOWIE**



# **“JAMES BOWIE”**

**A HERO OF THE ALAMO**

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BY

**EVELYN BROGAN**

AUTHOR OF

**“The Old Spanish Trail.”**

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

THEODORE KUNZMAN  PRINTER & PUBLISHER

**1922**

1-2000  
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FEB 14 '22

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TO  
**The Heroes of the Alamo.**

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## P R E F A C E.

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James Bowie, a hero of the Alamo, and one of the most noted characters not only of Texas but of the United States, was born in South Carolina in 1805 of pioneer American parents. While still a child they moved to New Orleans and there James Bowie grew to manhood. The famous "Bowie Knife" received its name from James Bowie. He or his brother (Rezin Bowie) was the inventor of it.

Love of adventure, so strong in youths of the pioneer age, manifested itself in James Bowie and he came to Texas, then a Mexican state, about 1828. He spent much fruitless time in searching for the famous silver mine chronicled in the old Spanish Records, as being located near the site of the former San Saba Mission. Failing to find the mine, he settled in San Antonio de Bexar, where he married Miss Ursula de Veramendi, the daughter of Vice Governor Juan Martin de Veramendi, of Texas. Their beautiful home, the Veramendi Palace located on Soledad Street, was the center of Spanish hospitality and culture in the early days of San Antonio. The famous old Veramendi Palace has since been torn down to make room for a modern building much to the regret of tourists and loyal citizens of old San Antonio.

James Bowie took a prominent part in the revolt of Texas for Independence from Mexico. His famous scouts did splendid work all during the Texas Revolution, at last sacrificing their lives in the Alamo Tragedy. Besides his many Indian battles, James Bowie took part in the Battle of Nacogdoches in 1832; La Concepcion in 1835; the "grass fight" near San Antonio de Bexar in 1835; and was one of the defenders of the historic old Alamo and one of the last to be killed during the final assault March 6, 1836. Although ill in bed, Bowie used his revolver with such telling effect that three of his assailants were killed before death came to him. Upon the outbreak of hostilities Vice-Governor de Veramendi returned to Mexico and with him for safe-keeping James Bowie sent his wife. She died there shortly afterwards of smallpox.

The first meeting of the noted James Bowie and General Sam Houston, afterwards Commander-in-chief of the Texan Republican Army, occurred at the little town of Goliad in 1831. From that time on they were fast friends.

The cause of the Texas Revolution was the overthrow of the Republic of Mexico and violation of the Constitution of 1824 by the ruthless and unscrupulous Santa Anna. He made himself dictator of Mexico and all her possessions with sole authority to administer the law. Towards anyone who opposed him he showed no mercy. He persecuted Texans and Mexicans alike. Then Texas revolted against him and united to throw off all allegiance to their mother country, Mexico, and form an independent republic. This was finally accomplished at the Battle of San Jacinto, April 21, 1836, but many fierce battles were fought and great difficulties were overcome before Texas was independent.

San Antonio de Bexar, the Mexican stronghold, was captured by three hundred Texans commanded by Colonels Milam and Johnson after four days' hard fighting in December, 1835. General Cos and his army were paroled on condition they would return to Mexico and forever lay down their arms against Texas. They accepted the terms of surrender and marched away towards Mexico, but meeting Santa Anna, he forced them to violate their parole and join him against the Texans.

A Texas sentinel posted in the tower of the old San Fernando Parish Church gave the alarm of the approach of Santa Anna. Captain John W. Smith and Dr. Sutherland riding out before dawn to ascertain their strength, crossed the Alazan Creek and came within one hundred and fifty yards of the outposts of the Mexican Camp on Prospect Hill. In their haste to return to town the horse Dr. Sutherland was riding, fell injuring his ankle. Unable to fight, Dr. Sutherland went to Gonzales to get re-enforcements to defend San Antonio de Bexar and did not succeed in returning until after the Fall of the Alamo.

Captain John W. Smith joined Colonels Travis and Bowie and with all the available men in San Antonio de Bexar, they withdrew to the Alamo upon the approach of Santa Anna and his army. Hastily gathering a few provisions, the Texans prepared to resist Santa Anna and his superior force until reenforcements arrived from General Sam Houston at Gonzales.

Captain John W. Smith acted as messenger for Colonel Travis, escaping twice and bringing in thirty-two recruits from Gonzales the first time. He was the last messenger to leave the fated Alamo for help and was unable to return until after its Fall.

What became of Moses Rose after he left the Alamo on that fated day, March 3, 1836, is still a mystery. Some claim he reached General Sam Houston and was the first to bring the news of the Fall of the Alamo. But Mrs. Alman Marion Dickinson, the sole survivor of the Texans and in the Alamo, says she gave the first news of the fall. As Moses Rose never returned to his home in Nacogdoches, it is believed he was killed by Mexican soldiers shortly after he made his escape. Some historians doubt his existence, but General Sam Houston affirms there was a man named Moses Rose among the Alamo defenders.

The "deguello" was the Mexican bugle-call for "death—no quarters"—as was the blood red flag they planted on the tower of the old San Fernando Parish Church. Like many others who had lost their faith, Santa Anna was a bitter enemy of the Catholic Church, and the flying of his red flag from the tower of the Catholic Church in San Antonio de Bexar, gave a true expression of his sentiments.

Some historians claim the Alamo Tragedy could have been averted by the escape of the defenders. But this was an impossibility, as some twenty of the men were sick or badly wounded. Where would they have taken them and how? San Antonio de Bexar was an almost deserted town, and the few citizens who remained were too fearful of their own lives to harbor the Texan soldiers whom Santa Anna was bent on destroying. Then the nearest settlement was Gonzales, between which stretched a wild uninhabited prairie infested with roving war parties of savage Comanche Indians, who would have been only too glad to revenge themselves on the whites.

Could they escape and leave the sick and wounded to the horrible fate the butcher, Santa Anna, would give them? Could they surrender themselves and be shot in cold blood? Rather than play the coward's part they remained in defense of their fort and fell with it. Their only hope was to hold out until reinforcements arrived or die. This they did, be it said to their honored memory.

Their sacrifice was not in vain. "Remember the Alamo" was the battle cry at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, when some eight hundred Texans commanded by General Sam Houston defeated and routed some two thousand Mexicans under Santa Anna, capturing the Mexican general and over seven hundred prisoners with as

many more killed and wounded. The battle lasted eighteen minutes, and the defeat was final. The loss of the Texans was small, two killed and six wounded.

The flag the Texans fought under and which waved from a pole planted on the Alamo Church, was the Mexican colors, but instead of "the eagle and the snake" of the Mexicans, they had "1824" on the white stripe, which signified the year the Constitution was adopted, guaranteeing to the American colonists in Texas full and equal rights with other citizens of Mexico; these rights were never fulfilled and were completely cancelled by Santa Anna.

The bodies of the Alamo heroes were dishonored by the Mexican soldiers, then placed on a pyre and burned by command of General Santa Anna. Their few remains were gathered together by the order of Juan Seguin, a friend of the heroes and a participant in the winning of Texas Independence. Juan Seguin had the fragments placed in an urn and given Christian burial, placing the urn in a sepulcher in the San Fernando Parish Church. This act of charity and honor took place in July, 1836.

San Antonio, Texas, January 10, 1922.



APRIL 25, 1831.

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**The Marriage of Colonel James Bowie and Miss Ursula de Veramendi  
in San Fernando Parish Church.**

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The bells of San Fernando ring merrily today,  
The Parish Church is all adorned in bridal array.  
Tall waxen candle light the scene and flowers fair  
Festoon the altars and shed their perfume on the air.  
In festive dress the Church awaits the happy bridal pair:  
Colonel James Bowie and Ursula de Veramendi of Bexar.  
In the Veramendi Palace a happy scene takes place,  
Loving hands adorn the bride, arrange the veil of lace.  
While falls in shimmering loveliness this rare heirloom so old,  
How many brides have worn it, admired its clinging fold.  
The long procession wends its way from the dear childhood home,  
Down the plaza and across, under the shadowy dome.  
The bride and groom escorted by child flower-bearers gay,  
Who scatter vari-colored leaves along the bridal way.  
Singing the bridal song they pass, and neighbors join in  
With wishes for a happy life. And all their kin  
Escort them to the altar steps, where Padre Garza waits,  
In glistening vestments of pure white, to join them as life mates.  
The happy guests in silence kneel on the earthen floor,  
While at the altar steps they stand and vow forevermore  
To love and honor each and let none other come between.  
The marriage vows are taken, and the impression scene  
Is followed by the Nuptial Mass. How sweet the voices blend  
In the majestic music To heaven the prayers ascend  
For these loved ones, from every heart in that vast throng  
That graces may accompany them, all their life long.  
Then homeward to the palace, James Bowie takes his bride,  
Into its dear old portals they enter side by side.  
The wedding guests are waiting, the bridal feast is spread,  
The bride and groom their places take at the table head.  
A notable company it is that April day sits there:  
Vice-Governor De Veramendi, the Prefect of Bexar,  
Don Martinez, the Governor, in uniform, and sword,  
Jose Maria Salinas, the Mayor and lord

Of Spanish San Antonio, their presence lends  
With Jose Navarro and Juan Seguin. And other friends  
Sit at the bridal board, and as the feast proceeds  
Many stirring tales they tell, or recount Bowie's deeds.  
Then follows a fandago and merrily they dance,  
Whiling away the happy hours with many an amorous glance.  
A levee at the Governor's which all the town attends,  
And the grand palace is aglow, the lights and flowers blend  
With the brightly colored costumes of silks and rare laces,  
Which adorn the fair young guests, or frame their happy faces.  
The few short years pass swiftly for James Bowie and his wife,  
Then in to their wedded happiness comes war's alarm and strife.  
Vice-Governor De Veramendi returns to Mexico,  
And with him Bowie sends his wife, he would have it so.  
She pleads to stay beside him, it is her proper place,  
Love struggles for supremacy and her tear-stained face  
Tempts him to yield and keep her, then broken is love's spell,  
For untold dangers threaten and Bowie loves her well.

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**NOVEMBER 3, 1835.**

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### **The General Consultation Meets.**

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In a fever of activity the Texas convention meets  
At San Felipe de Austin and their proclamation sweeps:  
"Unite one and all and with us strive,  
Let us take San Antonio de Bexar and drive  
Out of Texas forever the Mexican hosts,  
Who have sworn to crush us. Their vainful boasts  
Must not be fulfilled, we can keep them at bay,  
And if all will unite we can win the day."  
General Sam Houston assumes command  
Of the little army and a bold campaign plans,  
Whereby the Mexican soldiers in Texas will be  
Put to a confused rout and forced to flee  
Across the Rio Grande into Mexico.  
While thus Houston plans, General Cos strikes a blow  
At San Antonio de Bexar, marches in,



Fortifies the town and defies him.  
At the Mission la Concepcion are a thousand men  
Commanded by General Austin Fannin and Bowie win  
A brilliant victory and four hundred rout  
With ninety stalwart Texas scouts.  
General Cos will not surrender and a seige is laid  
By Austin and vain attempts are made,  
To draw the Mexicans out to fight,  
But they very carefully keep out of sight.  
One early dawn a sentinel spies  
Mexicans at work on the land which lies  
Near the river, and hurriedly gives the alarm.  
Busily they cut grass, feeling safe from harm,  
When James Bowie in command of a hundred men  
Are upon them before they can get within  
Their fortifications, and the "grass fight" is won  
By Bowie and his Texans, who send on the run  
The frightened enemy. General Austin resigns  
The command and Burleson is elected. He defines  
His reasons for refusing to storm the place.  
Then Smith, Holmes and Maverick make their escape  
From San Antonio and bring such good news  
To the Texan commander, he can not refuse  
To storm the town or longer delay  
His proposed assault. Early next day  
Before dawn they are to make the attack.  
All are ready to march and eager to sack  
The Mexican stronghold. And then comes word  
The assault is put off. Such remonstrance is heard  
From the disappointed men, that Burleson fears  
His command is endangered. His terrified ears  
Hear threats of vengeance for his coward's act.  
Whole companies refuse to parade and a pact  
Is made to disobey his orders which say:  
"Abandon camp. At seven be on the way  
To La Bahia." Terrible tumult results  
And confusion reigns among men whose insults  
Are flung at each other without thought of fear.  
In the midst of the turmoil a voice calls, "Hear!"  
The turbulent, bitter men rejoice  
That a leader has risen. They hear the voice

Of Colonel Milam who at once begins  
To speak and their final attention wins.  
"Men! Vuavis, a deserter, brings good news.  
Our attack is unknown, the soldiers refuse  
To obey General Cos. Discontent abounds."  
Great excitement prevails and a cheer resounds,  
Awakening the echoes. Colonel Milam calls  
In a thundering voice and silence falls.  
"Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?"  
With cheers they shout, 'I and I and I will go.'  
Three hundred and one in all volunteer  
To follow Ben Milam into town without fear.

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DECEMBER 5, 1835.

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### The Storming of San Antonio de Bexar.

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The first streaks of dawn are breaking through  
The night's black fastness when a few  
Brave men march away in the lifting dusk,  
While Burleson agrees to await the result  
Of their mad adventure before he leaves  
For La Bahia, though failure he sees.  
Along Acequia Street, Milam marches fast,  
Johnson comes along Soledad Street and past  
The Garza House to the Veramendi Palace  
Which he is to occupy. The columns race  
Through the quiet streets before Cos finds out  
They have entered the town or what they're about.  
Into Main Plaza where the streets debouch  
Cos has thrown up breastworks, and cannon crouch  
Behind raking batteries which sweep the streets.  
Milam reaches the Garza House and meets  
With no obstruction against his plan.  
A sentinel spies Johnson. "Deaf" Smith shoots the man  
Before he can fire and give the alarm,  
They reach the Veramendi House without harm.

The crack of Smith's rifle awakens the strife,  
The plaza batteries open and human life  
Is naught before the avalanche that falls  
From rifle and cannon, a shower of balls.  
Whistling and shrill the battle hymn rings  
The storming of San Antonio de Bexar begins  
Four days, three hundred Texans fight to win  
Victory over ten times their number of men.  
By inches they advance through the thick adobe walls,  
Pecking loopholes with crowbars or breaking small halls.  
Eagerly they gain one room at a time,  
Pick off the enemy or plant a mine.  
On the night of the fifth, with great trouble and risk  
The two columns connect, though the fighting is brisk.  
Beyond the Garza House they advance on the sixth,  
On the seventh brave Karnes steps forth to fix,  
With a crowbar an entrance into a house midway  
Between the Garza House and the Plaza. They stay  
Here a short time and then gain a hold  
On the Navarro place, the stroke is bold.  
Brave Milam is shot dead as he enters the yard  
Of the Veramendi place. The loss is hard  
For these few brave veterans to bear,  
But no time for any grieving is there.  
On the eighth the Zambrano row is taken,  
The enemy driven room from room and shaken  
Is their confidence in Cos and their strong position,  
So with fifty men they attempt a diversion.  
But Burleson is ready and drives them back  
With a six-pounder. Again they lack  
Resourcefulness against their determined attackers.  
All their waverings are for the Texans good factors,  
In helping them win against overwhelming numbers.  
Little time do they spare for food or slumbers.  
At night re-enforcements reach the Zambrano row,  
And amid heavy fighting to the Priests' House they go.  
This last is a great gain and victory is sure,  
For in the Priests' House they are secure  
From attack, and of the plaza have command.  
By four days' hard fighting this little band  
Has won a great victory. Next appears

With a flag of truce, a messenger who nears  
The victorious Texans and send a request,  
Which of all their triumphs suits them the best.  
The haughty General Cos asks to surrender,  
And well do the gleeful Texans remember  
His insulting answer to a similar request,  
They made a few weeks ago. Quite a jest  
His very humble plea now becomes.  
On the tenth General Burleson agrees and sums  
Up the Articles of Capitulation,  
San Antonio de Bexar is free from Mexico's domination.  
A wreck of shattered buildings and blockaded streets,  
Plundered stores and homes lie breached.  
With gaping windows and crumbling walls,  
Filled with debris and rifle balls.  
Short is the peace for San Antonio,  
To Matamoros the soldiers go,  
Leaving but eighty men to stand  
Guard over the town against the roving bands  
Of fierce Comanches. Rumors are afloat  
Of Santa Anna's approach with an army that gloat  
Over the final defeat of the Texans, and how  
They will annihilate them. Now  
To Laredo, Juan Seguin sends his cousin to learn  
If the enemy is coming, and to discern  
The attitude of the people at large. In haste  
He returns. There is no time to waste,  
In making preparations for San Antonio's defense,  
Before Santa Anna arrives and hostilities commence.  
Colonel Travis, with thirty men, comes and takes  
Command of the small army. This makes  
A stronger force, but still he needs  
More men, and to the council pleads  
For re-enforcements. Then James Bowie comes  
With thirty scouts to enlist. This sums  
Up a larger force, but still pitifully small  
To defend the town against Santa Anna, and all  
The Mexican hordes that are pouring down  
Upon the shattered little town.

FEBRUARY 23, 1836.

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"The Siege of the Alamo."

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Four thousand well appointed men appear,  
Commanded by Santa Anna. The Texans fear  
Annihilation, and so escape the town  
To the Alamo where a siege closes down.  
Now begins that grim tragedy which ends in death  
For all those brave hearts that are bereft  
Of help or succor from friends who know  
Their dire needs, but fear to show  
Themselves in sight, lest perhaps they too  
Will be killed without mercy, they are so few.  
David Crockett with twelve men comes and joins in  
Their desperate lot. They welcome him  
With cheers. The determined enemy works  
Building breastworks and batteries behind which lurks  
The murderous cannon which rake the gates.  
A white flagged messenger comes; the firing abates.  
Santa Anna demands unconditional surrender,  
Travis replies with a cannon shot. This engenders  
The attack, and over San Antonio floats  
The blood-red flag of the Mexican hosts.  
Captain John W. Smith slips from the Alamo.  
In the dusk of early morning to go  
For help from their countrymen. The plea  
Travis sends is an urgent one. "We  
Beg you to come and assist us here  
For we are surrounded by men who fear  
Neither God nor man, and help we must have  
If victory be ours. You may salve  
Your conscience and refuse to hear  
Our urgent call, but never fear  
Though we be neglected, I will sustain  
Myself, or die like a soldier who has lain  
Down his life for his country and own honor.  
Victory or Death!" Outside the clamor

Of the active enemy reaches within  
To the straining ears of the listening men.  
They man the walls and repulse with strength  
The heavy assaults against the length  
Of the long defenses. A strange little battle,  
Now fast now furious the bullets rattle,  
Whipping up the dust in spots all around,  
And filling the air with a various sound.  
Within the dark church a woman weeps,  
While clasped in her arms a baby sleeps.  
She has just been held in a last embrace  
By her husband, brave Dickinson, who now must face  
The oncoming enemy and leave those two  
With a last farewell, an eternal adieu.  
Aloft on the church floats the Texans' flag,  
Pierced with bullets but unconquered its sags  
Limply against the rough hewn pole.  
While beneath it each enacts his role  
In which Death is an unseen player.  
An ominous silence falls over all. A layer  
Of dust and smoke begrims the forms  
Of the crouching men as the enemy storms  
The weakened defences, and seeks to break  
Through the thick stone walls. Repulsed they make  
An assault by fire. Flaming arrows speed  
Into the fort, on the wrecked timbers feed.  
A glow of light spreads through the sombre dark,  
But quickly the Texans extinguish each spark.  
A wild shout surprises the Mexican hosts,  
Who in their encircling have made proud boasts,  
"No help shall enter the doomed fort or leave  
With messages for soldiers." They believe  
Their blockade is perfect when into view  
Dash Captain John Smith and thirty two.  
Brave heroes from Gonzales, who have dared  
To come through the enemy ranks, nor cared  
For the fusillade of bullets that showered around.  
They reach the closed gates where their friends are found,  
And into the fort are conveyed, while a brush  
Is had with the cavalry that comes with a rush.  
Then riderless gallop the terrified horses,  
Trampling or dragging the Mexican corpses.

**"The Failure of Re-enforcements to Arrive. Colonel Travis' Farewell to His Men."**

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Two hours before sunset their assailants withdraw,  
And above the dead and the wounded caw  
The inquisitive daws, and the vultures wheel.  
Frantic with torments the wounded reel  
Away from the sickening scene, or fall  
In dying agony, a huddled ball.  
A disc-like crimson sun hangs low,  
And the distant murmur of the river's flow  
Comes faintly to the dying ears of those,  
Who lie on the Plaza in a last repose.  
In the Alamo Church, Colonel Travis stood  
In front of his able men who could  
Still fight, and solemnly addressed:  
"My brave companions, we are pressed  
By our many enemies; our fate is sealed.  
Within a few days we all must yield  
Our souls to God. But not in vain  
Do we die, or are we for our country slain.  
My calls for help have been ignored;  
My messengers are lost or of their own accord  
Have deserted me in my hour of need.  
But to you, my brave comrades, now I plead.  
Stay with me, or if you too must go,  
Still will I stay until life's last flow  
Shall have left my body, drop by drop.  
Should any wish to go, I shall not stop."  
With dimming eyes of grief they saw  
Their brave commander stop and draw,  
With his sword on the earthen floor, a line:  
"Those who will stand by me and mine  
Let them remain. Those who don't know,  
Let them cross that line and they shall go!"  
So intense was the silence that scarce a breath  
Was heard. One man seemed bereft

Of his reason With hesitating step  
He crossed the fatal line and kept  
His back to the astonished men who stood  
Like statues that are carved from wood.  
"Moses Rose, do you fear to die?"  
Was the curt query of Travis. "I  
Do; I am not prepared to go  
Into Eternity, and so  
I will try to escape and bring the news  
Of your direful position to those who refuse  
To aid you in your extremity.  
I speak the Mexican fluently,  
Perhaps I can pass through their ranks and go  
Unnoticed, and thus escape the foe."  
"Perhaps you can, you may go and try,"  
With a handclasp brave Travis makes reply.  
Rose climbs the wall in the deepening dusk,  
And jumps from sight in the thick white dust.  
Inside the Alamo all is action now,  
To keep their vigil with Death all vow  
An astounding roar the echoes awake,  
From the cottonwoods the cooing doves make  
Strange music to the accompaniment of belching guns.  
In the gathering darkness a tongue of flame runs  
Through the velvet sky and quenches the light  
Of the evening star that heralds the night.

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**MARCH 6, 1836.**

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**"The Fall of The Alamo."**

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A stillness prevails like that of death,  
San Antonio is without a breath  
Of life. The crucial hour has come.  
Though hands are busy, their hearts are dumb,  
Not with fear, but life is sweet to all  
And when the last hour comes to fall  
Into Death's embrace, even the brave may feel



A twinge of regret at the fatal seal.  
One by one the minutes creep slowly by,  
Calmly and surely the Texans reply.  
To the avalanche of shot and shell,  
That fires the gray dawn like a living hell.  
In the weird light the tragic scene  
Shows dancing figures of hideous mien  
On that memorable Sunday is heard the blast  
Of the terrible "deguello," all hope is past  
The Mexican infantry advance in hordes,  
And scaling ladders a way affords  
Over the defences of high stone walls,  
And into the courtyard a multitude falls.  
There a savage continuous fire they meet,  
And make a hurried disorderly retreat.  
But the Mexican cavalry drive them back  
To the fearful work. The painful rack  
Of bullet torn bodies that dying fall  
Outside that impregnable wall.  
Twice they have come and been repulsed,  
Now they are mad with battle lust.  
A last assault in semi-circular form,  
From the northeast to the southwest they storm  
The weakening defences, driving back  
The brave defenders, who withdraw through lack  
Of re-enforcements to hold the spaces.  
And into the church for safety races  
The few defenders for a last stand  
Against that overwhelming vicious band.  
Clubbing their guns the Texans keep  
At bay for an instant, those who leap  
Into the church through the broken door.  
By the western wall dead on the floor  
Lies noble Travis, his nerveless hand  
Still clasps his gun. The fort is manned  
By the exultant victorious enemy.  
Crockett in death by the baptistry,  
To the last is faithful to his friend,  
The helpless Bowie, whose final end  
Is met with a stoicism, as  
Befits a courageous hero, who has

But one life to offer for his country,  
And gives it nobly and generously.  
Brave Walker is the last to die.  
As to the powder he tries to fly  
With a flaming torch to set it on fire,  
Though he perish himself in the ruins dire.  
But he is overtaken in the baptistry,  
And bullets and bayonets set him free.  
All are now dead and in huddled heaps  
They lie on the blood-soaked ground, which seeps  
With crimson springs, and the tragic day  
Is ended. Drifting away  
Is a thin film of smoke on the hazy air,  
That but lately glowed with the battle flare.  
Destiny played toss with Death and bore  
The Banner of Defeat. Life's battle is o'er.

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**JANUARY 1, 1922.**

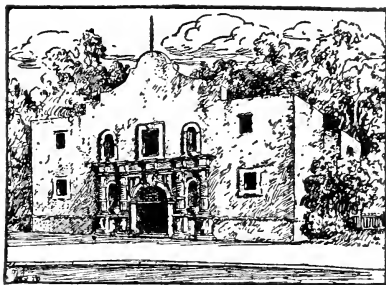
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**"To The Alamo."**

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Old Battered time-worn silent walls what scenes You've looked upon,  
From the present bustling hurry to the City's early dawn.  
You saw the Franciscan Padres in holy patience teach  
The wild and savage Indians. You have heard them preach  
Of Manitou, the Christians' God, Who loves His children well,  
Who on a Cross was crucified to save them all from hell.  
In solemn lonely grandeur You rose upon the plain,  
While peacefully about You lay many a verdant lane.  
Vineyards stretched to river's flow and pomegranates grew  
In the cheery Mission Gardens with figs and pecans, too.  
And broad lawns sloped to river bank, green sward with drops  
of dew,  
Quiet nooks for meditation and for lovers too.  
The fragrance of crape-myrtles and magnolias fill the air,  
A wealth of color radiates from flower harmonies there.  
The yucca like a candelabra is hung with "Lamps of God,"  
The Spanish Dagger lifts its spikes above the emerald sod.  
Gay poppies and verbenas a note of color lends,  
A cloud of brilliant butterflies like sweet-pea blossoms sends

A rainbow flash of beauty into the golden glow,  
And down among the cypresses on the river bank below.  
A horseman spurs his charger along the white roadway,  
The mocking birds are carolling to all their gladsome lay.  
You saw the Indian converts who happy in their home,  
No longer chaffed against restraint, or ever cared to roam  
Again into the wilderness amongst their savage kin.  
You saw the bloody struggle of the white and the redmen.  
The shrill warhoop resounding, the exultant shouts of those  
Who grappled with their bitter foes or sent well-aimed death-blows.  
You saw the martial Spaniard in helmet and coat-of-mail,  
Before whose gun and steady hand the Indian arrows fail.  
You saw the fierce Comanches in war-paint come to town,  
Led by Isimanica or some chief of equal renown.  
And in and out Your doorway through the long years have passed,  
The many, many thousands of heroes, first and last.  
A brilliant pageant passes by and Memory recalls,  
The varied sounds of Peace or Strife that echoed round Your walls.  
Unseen musicians fill the night with magic melody,  
The haunting strains of Spanish airs in plaintive minor key.  
The background of the dark night sky is hung with glittering stars,  
A silver radiance touches all and glorifies Your Scars.



THE ALAMO

## **“ IN MEMORIUM.”**

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Like precious gems your names are set  
In History's storied pages. Yet  
Down the dim-lit pathway of the years  
Brighter the lustre grows, endears  
To you, great heroes of humanity, undying fame.  
And deathless distinction is your claim.  
Life's budded promise is fulfilled,  
You did the work that God had willed.  
The Watchman of Time's Dial turned the key,  
Opened your prison-house of mortality.

## The Names of The Alamo Heroes Who Perished in The Fall of The Alamo.

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The monument of The Alamo at Austin, the capital of Texas, has the name of Travis on the south front, Bowie on the east front, Crockett on the north front, and Bonham on the west front. Beneath these are inscribed on the north and south fronts by Mr. Nagle, the following names:

M. Autrey	W. Deadruff	Lanio	C. Smith
R. Allen	J. Erving	W. Lightfoot	Stockton
M. Andrews	T. R. Evans	Wm. Lightfoot	Stewart
Ayers	D. Floyd	G. W. Lynn	A. Smith
Anderson	J. Flanders	Lewis	J. C. Smith
W. Blazeby	W. Fishpaugh	J. Lonly	Sewall
J. B. Bournan	Forsythe	W. Mills	A. Smith
Baker	G. Fuga	Micheson	Simpson
S. C. Blair	J. C. Goodrich	E. T. Mitchell	R. Star
Blair	J. George	E. Melton	Starn
Brown	J. C. Garrett	McGregor	N. Sutherland
Bowin	C. Grimes	T. Miller	W. Summers
Balentine	Groyne	J. McCoy	J. Summerline
J. J. Baugh	J. E. Garwin	E. Morton	Thompson
Burnell	Gilmore	R. Musselman	E. Taylor
J. Butler	Hutchason	Millsop	G. Taylor
J. Baker	S. Holloway	R. B. Moore	J. J. Taylor
Burns	Harrison	W. Marshall	W. Taylor
Bailey	Hjessel	Moore	Bros.
J. Beard	J. Hayes	R. McKenney	Thornton
Baliess	Horrell	McCaferty	Thomas
Bourne	Harris	J. McGee	J. M. Thurston
R. Cunningham	Hankins	G. W. Main	Valentine
J. Clark	J. Holland	G. Nelson	Williamson
J. Cane	W. Hersie	J. Noland	J. L. Wilson
Cloud	Ingram	Nelson	Warner
S. Crawford	John	Wm. G. Nelson	D. Wilson
Cary	J. Jones	C. Ostiner	Walsh
W. Cummings	L. Johnson	Pelone	Washington
R. Crossman	C. B. Jamison	C. Parker	W. Wells
Cockran	W. Johnson	N. Pollard	C. Wright
G. Cottle	T. Jackson	G. Pagan	R. White
S. Dust	D. Jackson	McQuerry	J. Washington
J. Dillard	Jackson	S. Robinson	T. Waters
A. Dickinson	G. Kemble	Reddenson	Warnell
G. Despalier	A. Kent	N. Rough	J. White
E. Davell	W. King	Rusk	D. Wilson
J. C. Day	Kenney	Robbins	J. Wilson
J. Dickens	Lewis	W. Smith	A. Wolf
Devault	W. Linn	Sears	

## Distinguished Visitors of The Alamo.

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Among the many distinguished people who have been in the historic Alamo are personages whose lives and doings are a part of a larger history than merely that of San Antonio. They have come and gone, saintly brown-robed Franciscan priests, the blue and the gray-clad soldiers, noted church and civil visitors.

Theirs has been a record of duty performed, be it teaching and civilizing the savage redskin or forcing him to obedience and observance of the white man's law; charging at Gettysburg, or patrolling our frontier; or holding faithful vigil on the bloody fields of France.

In the mesquite wilderness with none save God to note, these heroes of all time bore themselves with great courage and faithfulness to duty well performed. It has been said that the truly great are those who will do in solitude the most daring deed they might conceive before men. Surely this is so, and the historic personages who have occupied the famous Alamo, have made the glorious State of Texas what it is. They have guarded our frontier and aided by gallant population settled aimiably and forever the Indian and Mexican question in Texas. In the past San Antonio has seen much of the captured tribes—villains of the most villainous type. The last to be brought in being the notorious Geronimo and his band, captured by General Lawton in the Arizona mountains after a long chase.

The saintly Father Antonio Margil de Jesus, O. F. M., Founder of The Alamo, 1716.

Father Pedro Ramirez, O. F. M., Builder of The Alamo, 1720.

Don Manuel Munoz, Governor of Texas, 1794.

Right Reverend Marin de Parras, Bishop of Linares, 1805.

The Alamo Heroes, 1836.

General Albert Sydney Johnston, 1857.

General Robert E. Lee, 1860.

General Stanley, U. S. A., 1884.

James Cardinal Gibbons, 1887.

Francis Cardinal Satelli, 1896.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, 1898.

President William H. Taft, 1909.

General Frederick Funston, U. S. A., 1915.

General John J. Pershing, U. S. A., 1917.

General James G. Harboard, U. S. A., 1920.

General Joseph Dickman, U. S. A., 1921.

General John H. Hines, U. S. A., 1921.

Marshal Ferdinand Foch, Leader of the Allied Armies in The World War, 1921.

And many others.

## "THE ORIGIN OF THE ALAMO"

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In the first Book of the Records kept in the San Fernando Cathedral is the following note concerning The Alamo:

"This Mission of San Antonio was established in 1703, on the banks of the Rio Grande under the title of Mission of San Francisco Solano. In 1712, it was transferred to the neighborhood of San Yldefonse. Thence it was moved to San Jose on the Rio Grande, in 1713, and finally transported to the San Antonio River in 1718."

The Act of transferring The Alamo Mission to San Antonio is also recorded in this Book of the Records, and is as follows:

"In the present year and on the 10th of the month of May, 1718, this Mission of San Jose (on the Rio Grande) on account of the scarcity of water, was transferred to San Antonio de Valero by order of His Excellency, the Marquis de Valero, Viceroy of New Spain. This Mission being under the direction of Fray Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares, and of the officer, Dr. Martin de Alarcon, president of these Provinces of the Kingdom of the New Philippines, and of the dependencies thereof. In faith whereof, I sign as Minister of these Missions the day of the month and the year as above. Fray Francisco Ruiz."

In the year 1716, the saintly Father Fray Antonio Margil de Jesus was appointed Superior or President of the Texas Missions and visited Texas in that year, founding six Missions in the most northerly part of the Province (Texas). One of these Missions founded by Father Fray Antonio Margil de Jesus was the Mission of San Antonio de Valero, now called The Alamo. The founding of a mission meant the locating of it with the intention of building at a later date. Hence "The Alamo Mission" was founded in 1716, by Father Antonio Margil, on the San Antonio River, opposite Bejar, the Capital of the Province of Texas. Its removal from the Rio Grande River took place in 1718. Its actual building began about the year 1720 and many years were required to build the extensive and beautiful Mission of San Antonio de Valero. The zealous efforts of Father Ramirez, President of the Texas Missions with headquarters at San Jose Mission, caused the actual work on The Alamo Mission to commence and its cornerstone was laid in 1744.

In another Book of Records in San Fernando Cathedral is found this note regarding The Alamo:

"On the eighth day of May in the year 1744, the corner stone for the new church of the Mission of San Antonio de Valero was blessed, the following clergymen being present: Diego Martin Garcia, Mariano Francisco de los Dolores y Friar Juan de los Angeles, and on the twenty-ninth of the month of September, in the year 1745, the new church was dedicated, the same clergymen as before

mentioned being present. To the above statement we do hereby sign our names on the twenty-ninth day of September in the year 1745. Diego Martin Garcia, Mariano Francisco de los Dolores y Friar Juan de los Angeles."

The Alamo received its name from the numerous cottonwood trees which grew along the acequias or irrigating ditches near the Mission. Alamo is the Spanish word for cottonwood.

The greater portion of the modern Alamo Plaza was once enclosed within the walls of the Mission of San Antonio de Valero, its gardens covering about fifteen acres. The Alamo Church is all that remains of this once extensive Mission "del Alamo," or Mission de San Antonio de Valero which was built to convert to the Catholic faith the Sanes, Payaes and other Indian tribes living in the vicinity.

From the time of its founding in 1703, on the Rio Grande until its close in 1794, The Mission of San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo) made many conversions of the Indians brought in contact with its various zealous missionaries, and accomplished great good for these wild children of God. During these years, 1703 to 1794, The Alamo Mission was under the jurisdiction of the Franciscan priests from Queretaro and Zacatecas, Mexico.

On the tenth of April, 1794, Don Pedro de Nava, Commandant-general of the Northwestern internal provinces, of which Texas formed a part, published a decree by which all the Missions within his jurisdiction should be secularized. That is to say, the Franciscan priests who until now had been in charge of these many Missions in the Province of Texas, including The Alamo, should give up their claim of possession and sign over all records, property and so forth, to secular priests who should be appointed by the Spanish authorities, to have charge of the religious welfare of those living at or attending the Churches located in the various Missions. As the money to build the Missions was furnished by the Spanish Crown, they were the property of the Spanish Government, and the Franciscan priests who had charge of them, were appointed by the Spanish Government and had no legal claim upon the Missions. They could be discharged at the will of the Spanish authorities. This is what is meant by "secularizing of the Missions."

On the last page of the Book of Baptisms of the Indians and others, extending down to 1783, we find the following notes:

"On the 22nd day of August, 1793, I transferred this book of the Records of the Pueblo of San Antonio de Valero to the Archives of the town of San Fernando and Presidio of San Antonio de Bexar, by order of the Right Reverend Doctor Don Andres de Llanos y Valdez the most worthy Bishop of this Diocese, dated January 2d, of the same year by reason of the said pueblo having been aggregated to the curacy of Bexar; and, that it may be known I sign it. Fray Jose Francisco Lopez, Parish Priest."



The following note in the Records show the receipt of the Book of Records of the San Antonio de Valero Mission (Pueblo):

"San Antonio de Bexar, June 14, 1794.

"On the day of this date I received from the Reverend Father Jose Lopez, who was Minister of the Mission of San Antonio de Valero, until it was delivered into the hands of the ordinary, (a church official appointed by the Bishop) this book, in which are set down the records of baptisms pertaining to said Mission, and performed up to the year 1783—noting that the records which may be searched for from the year 1788 may be found in a new book bound in parchment: from leaf 2 to 100, together with these that belong to the following year, and which may be entered hereafter. I make this note that it may serve as an index and I sign it with the same Reverend Father—date as above. Bachiller Gavino Valdez."

"I delivered this book, on the day of date, to the Parish-Priest, Don Gavino Valdez; and, that it may be known, I sign. Fray Jose Francisco Lopez (Parish Priest)."

After the decree of Don Pedro de Nava, published on the 10th of April, 1794, went into effect, many of the Franciscan priests remained in charge of their churches until replaced by secular priests. The secularization of the Franciscan Indian Missions in Texas was completed in 1825 and the churches were stripped of their valuables, the Indians scattered and all available and useful articles carried off. Thus ends the wonderful work of the Franciscan priests in Texas, and there remains to their everlasting memory these wonderful stone structures in the vicinity of San Antonio, of which the most famous is "The Alamo."

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### COPY OF

Letter of Colonel William Barret Travis, Lt. Col.

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Commandancy of the Alamo,  
Bejar, Feb'y 24th, 1836.

To the People of Texas and all Americans in the world:

Fellow Citizens and Compatriots: I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise the garrison is to be put to the sword if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism,

and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call be neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country. VICTORY OR DEATH.

WILLIAM BARRET TRAVIS, Lt. Col. Comdt.

P S.—The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls of 20 or 30 head of beeves.

TRAVIS.

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COPY OF

The Letter of Juan Seguin Concerning the Disposal of the Ashes of  
The Alamo Heroes.

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Laredo de Tamaulipas, March 28, 1889.

Mr. Hamilton P. Bee,  
San Antonio.

My Lord and Friend:—

I am answering your pleasing letter of the 9th instant which I did not do before on account of my health.

The rest of those who died in the Alamo were ordered to be burned by the order of General Santa Anna, and the little fragments (bones and ashes) I ordered them to be deposited in an urn; I ordered a sepulcher in the Cathedral of San Antonio to be opened, immediately in front of the Sanctuary it is, in front of the two gates that open in the Communion railing, but very near the steps.

And this is all I know about the matter.

I remain your friend and servant,

JUAN N. SEGUIN,  
(Rubric).

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Annexed to this letter is the following note:

“Below find the original letter from Colonel Seguin—to the effect that he buried the remains of “The Alamo Dead” in the Cathedral on Main Plaza of San Antonio, in July, 1836. San Antonio, October 9, 1893. H. P. Bee, Secretary.”

I hereby certify that the above is a true and accurate copy of the original manuscript which original is among the Nacogdoches Papers, Miscellaneous, 1844-1889, on file in the Texas State Library.

Given under my hand and seal this twelfth day of December, nineteen hundred and twenty-one, in the City of Austin, County of Travis, State of Texas.

ELIZABETH H. WEST,  
State Librarian.

Notary Seal of Elizabeth H. West, State Librarian.

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### **An Explanation of the Juan Seguin Letter.**

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As the interment of the urn containing the fragments of "The Alamo Dead" was made in July, 1836—four months after the death and destruction of the bodies by order of Santa Anna—the place of burial is not in the present Cathedral of San Antonio on Main Plaza, but in the rear part of the present Cathedral, in what was known in 1836 as the Parish Church of San Fernando. The Sanctuary of the present Cathedral occupies the site of the former Parish Church of San Fernando, and the sepulcher in which Juan Seguin interred the urn containing the fragments of "The Alamo Dead" is either under the present High Altar or immediately behind it. Two marble slabs with inscriptions on them show the presence of sepulchers in this place, and it is to be inferred from the letter of Juan Seguin that one of these sepulchers holds the precious urn containing the last mortal remains of Colonel James Bowie, of whom this book is written, and the other heroes of that tremendous struggle against overwhelming odds that ended in such a glorious defeat.

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### **Baptismal Record of James Bowie. Translated From the Original Spanish in the Book of Baptisms of San Fernando Parish Church, San Antonio, Texas.**

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Adult. James Box. In the City of San Fernando de Bexar on the 26th day of June, 1828, I, the priest, Refugio de la Garza, proper pastor of this City, having proceeded with the necessary instruction in catechism proscribed by the Roman Ritual, solemnly baptised and put the holy oils and chrism to James Box, twenty-three years old, born in South Carolina, legal son of James Box and Jane Box. The sponsors were Mr. Juan Martin de Veramendi and Mrs. Josepha Navarro (de Veramendi). In witness whereof I sign.

REFUGIO DE LA GARZA.

Note:—The various spelling of James Bowie's name must be accounted for by it having no corresponding equivalent in Spanish. In the Baptismal Record it appears as "Box" and his father's name as "James Box"; his mother's name as "Jane Box." In the Marriage Record the name is spelled "Buy"; his father's name is given as "Ramon" and his mother's name as "Alvina." In the Pre-nuptial Contract the name is spelled "Bowie" and his father's name is given as "Rezin"; and his mother's name as "Elvy." Presumably his father's full name was "James Rezin Bowie" and his mother's name was "Alvina Jane Bowie." As to the age of James Bowie, the records also differ. In the Baptismal Record his age is given as 23 in 1828, while in the Pre-nuptial Contract dated three years later, (1831) his age is given as 32 years. This discrepancy in recording his age might be due to the person writing the record. Historians are in favor of the first age, James Bowie being known to have been a young man.

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### COPY OF

**The Marriage Record of Colonel James Bowie and Miss Ursula de Veramendi, Translated From the Original Spanish in the Book of Records of the Marriages of San Fernando Parish Church, San Antonio, Texas.**

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In the City of San Fernando de Bexar on the 25th of April, 1831, I, the priest, Rev. Refugio de la Garza, the proper pastor of the City, after having complied with all requirements and admonished on three successive feast days, "Inter Missarum Solemnis" (during High Mass) which were the 11-17-24 of said month, and not having found any canonical impediments even after more than twenty-four hours had elapsed from the last banns, I married and veiled in the face of the Church, Mr. James Bowie, a native of Louisiana of North America, legal son of Mr. Ramon Bowie and Mrs. Alvina Jones; to Miss Ursula de Veramendi, a native of this said City, legal daughter of Mr. Juan Martin de Veramendi and Mrs. Maria Josepha Navarro; their sponser and witnesses of marriage were: Mr. Jose Angel Navarro and Mr. Juan Francisco Bueno.

In witness whereof I affix my signature, Refugio de la Garza.

Note: "Veiled in the face of the Church" means placing the Humeral Veil over the heads or shoulders of the bride and groom during the celebration of the marriage. It has a mystical significance emphasizing that the two are now one in spirit as well as in body. The Humeral Veil is an oblong-scarf of the same material as the vestments worn by the priest officiating at the marriage. It is an ancient custom, but not used now.

## Pre-nuptial Contract of Colonel James Bowie and Miss Ursula de Veramendi.

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(Translated from the original Spanish Document in the County Records of Bexar County, City of San Antonio, State of Texas.)

(Note: The paper on which this Pre-nuptial Contract of Colonel James Bowie and Miss Ursula de Veramendi is written has the following heading printed in large type and means, that this paper is to be used for official use only and costs \$6.00 per sheet. The Document is quaintly worded, written entirely by hand and yellow with age.)

SELLO PRIMERO  
FIRST SEAL.

SEIS PESOS.  
SIX DOLLARS.

Legally authorized by the State of Coahuila and Texas for the term of 1828-29. (30-31) In the Absence of the Administrator, Pedro Flores, testifies.

Promissory Note of the Dowery concerning the Nuptials.

In the City of San Fernando de Bexar on the 22nd day of the month of April, 1831, before me, the only Constitutional Mayor of said City and the assisting witnesses for want of a Notary Public, within the term of the law, Mr. James Bowie, a single man, of legal age, being at the time thirty-two years old, a native of the United States of North America, and the legitimate son of the legitimate marriage of Mr. Rezin Bowie and Elvy Jones, the first now dead, and both residents and citizens of the said United States, came before me and said: "That finding himself near to contract a marriage in the eyes of the Church (i. e. The Catholic Church) with Miss Maria Ursula de Veramendi, a single woman, native of this city, legitimate daughter of Mr. Juan Martin de Veramendi and Mrs. Maria Josepha Navarro, both residents and natives of the same City (San Fernando de Bexar), and in view of the virtue, honesty and other laudable gifts with which his future spouse is adorned, he (James Bowie) offers her as an augment of the dowery, or as an Aras or pre-nuptial present, on account of the nuptials, according as it may be useful in case the concerted marriage should be realized, the quantity of \$15,000 which are drawn from the most select of his estate or property, which he accordingly manifests before me, and consists at present of the following articles:

In the territory of Arcania of the United States of North America for the value of 60,000 Arpanis of land valued at the rate of 4 reales each one, which is the lowest price. 30,000.00 (presumably reales or pesos. It is not stated.)

In notes to be paid at various times, Messrs. Walker and Wilkins, Brothers, residents of Neches of said United States. 45,000.00 (reales or pesos.)

In the same notes of various individuals which shall be paid to the Justice of the Peace of the same place 20,000.00 (reales or pesos.)

For quantities that the government of the said United States has given me according to documents already granted, 32,800.00 (reales or pesos).

In the possession of Mr. Angus McNeil to whom has been entrusted the buying of one machine and all the utensils necessary to a manufacturing plant of cotton goods and wool in the State of Boston, 20,000.00 (reales or pesos.)

Moreover various pieces of valuable furniture of his own use and for his house, some farms, and other contracts started to buy other farms in this country which at present cannot be estimated now.

With the determination to fix the date himself for the fulfilment of the Nuptial Contract—the delivery of the Dowery—within the terms of two years after the marriage has been consummated, the goods that form this dowery are not now here in this country, because he (James Bowie) has only recently emigrated to this country under the protection and safeguard of the Federation and the particular laws of the State which he chooses as his adopted country, he obliges himself to give in effective coin to his future spouse, or to whom he represents, in case the marriage should not be realized, or the contract be dissolved on account of some legal reason, for any of the motives prescribed by law, the aforesaid sum of \$15,000 or in goods that represent that amount of money, as well as the expenses incidental that may be incurred, the liquidation (judgment of costs), he consents in his oath and absolves her from any other proof, wherefore he renounces the one before the last (law) Book 11, Chapter 4, in the annual term, and that he may comply with the hereto aforesaid with more punctuality and exactness, he obliges himself, likewise, not only not to squander, nor mortgage, nor place any obligation upon the property, nor to subject it to his debts, crimes or excesses, the import of said Dowery, but rather to deliver promptly so that in all events she may enjoy the privileges of the Dowery.

For the fulfilment of all the aforesaid, and in order to do this, he obliges all his goods, chattels, real estate, pledges, rights and actions, present and future, and he gives ample power to the honorable judges of this Republic or of any other nation where he may find himself, that they may compel him, as though by sentence given by the authority as a matter already judged and consented to and agreed upon, and as such he accepts this Contract renouncing all the laws, privileges as a lawful citizen of this City in her favor, and thus he gave in and signed with full faith, the witnesses being: Mr. Jose Manuel de la Garza and Mr. Jose Maria Balmaceda and Mr.

Jose Maria de Cardenas, residents of this City today, of said date, month and year.

Furthermore, in addition to the aforesaid, he (James Bowie) has manifested likewise to be the owner of 15,000 Arpanis of land on the banks of the Colorado River and in Wachita of the State of Louisiana, all of which being the least value, they are estimated at the rate of 5 pesos each (Arpanis) and all valued at 75,000 pesos.

JOSE MARIA SALINAS, Acting Mayer.  
(Rubric).  
JAMES BOWIE.  
(Rubric).

Witnesses:

JOSE FRANCISCO FLORES,  
(Rubric)  
IGNACIO DE ARROCHA,  
(Rubric)

—————o—————

### THE LAST INTERVIEW

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**In the San Antonio Express of Mrs. Alman Marion Dickinson-Han-  
nig, the Only Surviving Texan of the Fall of the Alamo, Made  
During Her Last Visit to the Alamo on April 27, 1881.**

—————

"After a last kiss and embrace my husband turned away. It was an eternal adieu. The bugles were sounding the charge of battle. The cannon's roar was reverberating throughout the Valley of the San Antonio. There were about 160 sound persons in the Alamo when the enemy appeared in overwhelming numbers upon the environs of the city to the west. The others were sick or wounded, among them being Colonel James Bowie who was in the last stages of consumption.

Colonel Travis called his well men and drew a line with his sword and said: "My soldiers, I am going to meet the fate that becomes me. Those who will stand by me let them remain, but those who desire to go, let them go—and who crosses the line that I have drawn—shall go." I came to the door of the room I had (the baptistry) and watched them. It was a most impressive scene.

The Mexican horde came on like a whirlwind. Organized into divisions they came in the form of a semi-circle that extended from the northeast to the southwest. The strongest attack was from about where the Military Plaza is, and from a division that marched up from the direction of Villita. Three times they were repulsed

and the two cannon planted high on the ramparts carried dismay with their belches of fire and lead. The ill-fated end came and with it the horrors of which even Crockett's vivid conception could not have dreamed.

The blood of noble men was seeping into the ground and the bodies of heroes were lying cold in death. The last man to fall was Walker. He had often fired the cannon at the enemy. Wounded, he rushed into the room where I crouched on my cot with my baby clasped in my arms and took refuge in a corner opposite me. The Alamo had fallen and the hordes of Santa Anna were pouring over its ramparts, through its trenches, through its vaults. The barbarous horde followed the ill-fated Walker and shot him first, then stuck their bayonets in his body and lifted him up like a farmer does a bundle of fodder on his pitchfork. An officer rushed to stop them; then they dropped the body. They were all bloody, and crimson springs coursed in the yard. Some say they did this to Bowie's body, but it was the dead body of Walker they raised on their bayonets. He was the last to be killed and they were drunk with blood.

I never saw my husband again after he went from me with his gun in his hand to die for his country. I feared for my fate but was saved by an English Colonel in the Mexican Army. Through the intervention of Alamonte I was permitted to leave the Alamo on horseback. Almonte said, "We are fighting men, not women."

I left the Alamo on horseback carrying my baby in my arms. I went first to the Muzquiz House where I had lived before the Alamo Siege. Then from there I rode alone with my baby towards Gonzales. Out on the Salado (Creek) I met Colonel Travis' negro servant and he went with me. I was glad to see him. Several miles further out on the prairie we saw horsemen rapidly approaching. We thought they were Indians and made the best preparation we could to defend ourselves. When they came nearer we saw they were white men. They proved to be "Deaf" Smith, Robert E. Handy and Captain Karnes, who had been sent by General Sam Houston to ascertain the condition of the garrison in the Alamo. I told of its fall and the terrible end. They went with me and the negro to Gonzales."

Of several friendly Mexicans reported to have been in the Alamo and who survived the Fall, Mrs. Dickinson-Hannig said, "I don't know, there may have been."

Note: So Mrs. Alman Dickinson-Hannig was really the first to carry the message of the Fall of the Alamo to General Sam Houston. There is also a tradition that Aurelino Borgara, a pro-Texas Mexican of San Antonio, was present at the Fall of the Alamo and slipped away by way of Wilson county and brought the first news of the Fall of the Alamo to General Sam Houston. There is no historical confirmation of this. Mrs. Al. Marion Dickinson was married twice, her second name being "Hannig."



## COPY OF

**Affadavit of Mrs. Susan Sterling, Granddaughter of Mrs. A. Marion Dickinson-Hannig, Made From the Copy of I. D. Afflect, a Historian of Texas.**

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San Antonio, Oct. 29, 1909.

To Whom it may Concern:

I, Mrs. Susan A. Sterling, nee Griffith, do hereby confirm that my grandmother's name was Susanna A. Wilkinson, and was the wife of Lieutenant Alman Dickinson, who was killed at the Battle of the Alamo, March 6, 1836, and my mother's name was Angeline Griffith, nee Angeline Dickinson, who was the child inside the Alamo on that memorable date and that I have heard my grandmother, the above mentioned, confirm often that she was in the right hand side upon entering room known as the baptismal room, on the date of March 6, 1836 in the Alamo, known as the Alamo Church where my grandmother told me the last hand to hand fight took place, and was in the same room with James Bowie and his nurse who was wounded at that time.

MRS. SUSAN A. STERLING,

The Granddaughter of Mrs. Dickinson of the Alamo.

Witnesses:

CHARLES WELERT,  
G. S. RAYMOND,  
MRS. T. J. PARTRIDGE,  
MRS. SARAH E. EAGER.

My mother at the time of the Siege of the Alamo was 15 months old and was born in Gonzales, Texas, 25th of December, 1834.







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